(d) the steps Government propose to take to create promotional channels for them?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYARANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The employees are generally given in service training from time to time to upgrade their working knowledge and skills.

(c) and (d) The posts of TV News Correspondent/Assistant TV News Correspondents are in an isolated cadre. However, in the absence of promotional avenues, they have been granted the benefit of promotion under ACP Scheme introduced by the Government as applicable to all other Central Government employees. But, still some of the employees keep on switching jobs in search of better career options.

Commissioning of FM Radio in Darjeeling

†2520. SHRI SAMAN PATHAK: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to commission an FM radio in Darjeeling, at the earliest;

(b) if so, by when it is likely to be commissioned; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYARANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) to (c) There is an approved scheme to set up 10KW FM transmitter with field production facilities at Darjeeling. A site for setting up Radio Station was re-demarcated. After demarcation there was a problem of free access to the site as the approach was through private land. Now it has been sorted out. Administrative approval and Expenditure sanction for construction of boundary wall has also been issued. Architectural drawing for building have been approved and Preliminary Estimates for building works are being prepared. Further works to set up Radio station are in progress. It is likely to be completed during 11th Five Year Plan period, subject to availability of funds and decision about sanction of Operation & Maintenance staff.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.